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Comments Regarding Docket Number 25-133

To Whom it May Concern,

I have comments regarding deregulation of amateur ham radio and the General Mobile Radio Service.

Amateur Ham Radio:
I believe the skills tests should be left in place. It is very important for an amateur radio operator to understand how their radios work, how to safely set up their installation, limit RF exposure and limit unintentional interference. That said, I believe that the band plan is too restrictive. The entry level license class of Technician should have at least some privileges on every band for both phone and CW communications instead of a small portion of the 10 meter band. Expanding Technician class privileges would allow access to frequencies that aren't quite so reliant on sun cycles for signal propagation. The sun is currently in a very active cycle which allows Technicians great communication, but when the sun is not as active, 10 meter band propagation is very poor. Sun cycles can last for years, so a period of low activity severely limits the Technician class's ability to communicate. Allowing Technicians a segment of every available band would increase interest and activity in the hobby and expand amateur radio communications. The extremely limited band plan for Technicians can be a barrier to entry for ham radio.

General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS):
Linking of repeaters should be allowed for GMRS. Since a GMRS license has no skills test, there is a very low barrier to entry. It should be possible for GMRS to establish a network of repeaters to allow access to large-scale communications for hobby and emergency use. When the cell phone towers are down or clogged during an emergency, there is no other largescale means of communication except licensed ham radio. Until recently there was a widespread network of GMRS repeaters with a lot of activity. When the FCC declared that linking GMRS repeaters was no longer allowed, nearly all GMRS activity ceased. When the repeaters were linked, I could hear GMRS communications from people throughout my city, and throughout the Midwest. After the FCC ordered the repeaters to be unlinked, it's nearly radio silence. That's a shame. I believe linked repeaters are in the spirit of the General Mobile Radio Service because it allows for family communication on a larger scale than without linked repeaters. Allowing linked repeaters also reduces regulations, which is the intent of Executive Order 14219.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Black

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